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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL,

Petitioners,

vs.

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715,

Respondent.

Case No: 5:07-CV-05158-JF

**STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS
AND LUCILE PACKARD
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL'S
MOTION TO COMPEL
DEPOSITIONS OF RUSTY SMITH,
MYRIAM ESCAMILLA AND
KRISTY SEMERSHEIM**

Date: August 27, 2008
Time: 9:30 a.m.
Dept: 4

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel
Magistrate Judge: Hon. Richard Seeborg

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715

Petitioner and Counter-
Respondent,

vs.

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Respondents and Counter-
Petitioners.

Case No: 5:08-CV-00213-JF

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715

Petitioner,

vs.

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Respondents.

Case No: 5:08-CV-00215-JF

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715

Petitioner,

vs.

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Respondents.

Case No: 5:08-CV-00216-JF

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715

Petitioner,

vs.

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Respondents.

Case No: 5:08-CV-01726-JF

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel

SERVICE EMPLOYEES
INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 715

Petitioner,

vs.

STANFORD HOSPITAL & CLINICS and
LUCILE PACKARD CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL

Respondents.

Case No: 5:08-CV-01727-JF

Judge: Hon. Jeremy Fogel

1 TO ALL PARTIES AND THEIR RESPECTIVE ATTORNEYS OF RECORD
2 HEREIN:

3 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that on August 27, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. or as soon
4 thereafter as counsel may be heard in Courtroom 4 of the above entitled court, Stanford
5 Hospitals & Clinics and Lucille Packard Children's Hospital (collectively "the
6 Hospitals") will bring on for hearing their Motion to Compel the Depositions of Rusty
7 Smith, Myriam Escamilla and Kristy Sermersheim.

8 This motion is made on the grounds that Service Employees International Union,
9 Local 715 ("Local 715") and/or the individual witnesses identified above have failed (or
10 have indicated that they will fail), without substantial justification and without having
11 served a valid objection, to produce witnesses, to appear at deposition, and/or to
12 reschedule a date for their depositions. This Motion is based upon this Notice of Motion
13 and Motion, the Memorandum of Points and Authorities, the Declaration of Eileen R.
14 Ridley, the records and pleadings on file herein, and upon such oral and documentary
15 evidence as may be presented at the time of the hearing thereon.

16 Dated: July 11, 2008

17 FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
18 LAURENCE R. ARNOLD
19 EILEEN R. RIDLEY
20 SCOTT P. INCIARDI
21 KRISTY KUNISAKI

22 By: _____/s/
23 EILEEN R. RIDLEY
24 Attorneys for STANFORD HOSPITAL &
25 CLINICS and LUCILE PACKARD
26 CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
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MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

I. INTRODUCTION

After having been specifically informed and prompted by the Court to proceed with discovery, Respondent/Petitioner/Counter-Respondent Service Employees International Union, Local 715 (“Local 715”) has embarked on a pattern of stonewalling and patent discovery abuse. First, it failed to produce substantive documents responsive to Petitioner/Respondent/Counter-Petitioner Stanford Hospital & Clinics’ and Lucile Packard Children’s Hospital’s (collectively “the Hospitals”) Request for Production of Documents. Those written discovery requests are the subject of a separate motion to compel. Then, after having been properly noticed, it has refused to produce party witness Rusty Smith for deposition in advance of the deadline to file dispositive motions. Additionally, witness Myriam Escamilla has been purposefully evading service of a deposition subpoena and counsel of record for Local 715 has refused to accept service on Ms. Escamilla’s behalf and/or provide dates for her deposition. Finally, after proper service of her deposition subpoena and notice to opposing counsel, counsel for Local 715 has represented to the Hospitals that it will not produce Ms. Sermersheim for her deposition on the noticed date and has refused to provide additional dates for Ms. Sermersheim’s depositions. The Hospital’s efforts to meet and confer regarding scheduling the depositions of these witnesses without judicial intervention have been unsuccessful. As a result, the Hospitals are forced to bring this Motion to Compel the depositions of three indispensable witnesses, Rusty Smith, Myriam Escamilla and Kristy Sermersheim. These witnesses’ appearance and testimony at deposition should be compelled, and Local 715 should be sanctioned for its abuse of the discovery process.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Each of these actions involves the Hospitals’ obligation to arbitrate with Local 715 pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement (the “CBA”) and/or to comply with arbitration awards purportedly issued pursuant to the CBA. The Hospitals have alleged

1 that Local 715, formerly the certified exclusive bargaining representative of a bargaining
2 unit of Hospital employees (the “Bargaining Unit”), has effectively ceased to exist, and
3 that therefore the Hospitals have no obligation to arbitrate. The Hospitals also assert that
4 the attorneys from the law firm of Weinberg Roger & Rosenfeld (the “Weinberg Firm” or
5 “Weinberg”) who have sought to participate in arbitration proceedings with the Hospitals
6 do not actually represent Local 715, but instead are retained by UHW and are acting
7 under the guise of an invalid servicing agreement (the “Servicing Agreement”).

8 On April 25, 2008, the Court held a case management conference. At the CMC,
9 counsel for Local 715 argued that no discovery was necessary in the case. The Hospitals’
10 counsel, however, argued that, due to the Hospitals claims regarding the status of Local
11 715, some discovery was necessary before dispositive motions could be filed.
12 Specifically, it was argued that discovery was necessary on the issues of Local 715’s
13 continued existence, Local 715’s resources, its capacity as representative of the
14 Bargaining Unit, and the legal representation provided to Local 715. [Declaration of
15 Eileen R. Ridley In Support Of Stanford Hospital & Clinics’ and Lucile Packard
16 Childrens Hospital’s Motion to Compel Depositions (“Ridley Decl.”) ¶ 2 Exh. A at 4:2-
17 5:2.] The Court agreed and specifically approved discovery into these limited areas. [Id.
18 at 13:25-14:9.]

19 On June 13, 2008, the Hospital served Local 715 with a Notice of Deposition of
20 Rusty Smith to take place on June 26, 2008. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 3, Exhs. B-G.] This
21 deposition (as with the deposition of Ms. Escamilla and Ms. Sermersheim) was
22 specifically scheduled for a date after the union entities were required to produce
23 documents in response to the Request for Production of Documents and/or subpoenas
24 served by the Hospitals. Between June 13 and June 20, the Hospitals made 11 separate
25 attempts to serve Myriam Escamilla with a deposition subpoena for a deposition to
26 commence on July 2, 2008. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 4-5, Exhs. H-Y.] Initially, Ms. Escamilla
27 indicated that she would accept service at home and made arrangements to receive the
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1 subpoena. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 5, Exhs. N-S.] She failed to appear, however, at the appointed
2 time, and all further attempts to serve her at her home have failed. [Id.] Attempts were
3 also made at Ms. Escamilla's work address, but she would not accept service and her
4 office refused to accept service on her behalf. [Id.]

5 On June 23, 2008, ten days after the notice of Mr. Smith's deposition was served,
6 counsel for Local 715, Bruce Harland, wrote a letter objecting to the deposition notice
7 and subpoena as "an effort to harass both Mr. Smith and Ms. Escamilla." [Ridley Decl.
8 ¶ 7, Exh. LL.] In his letter, Mr. Harland further stated that neither Mr. Smith nor Ms.
9 Escamilla were available for the dates noticed. [Id.] Counsel of record for the Hospitals,
10 Eileen R. Ridley, responded to counsel for SEIU's letter on that same day, clarifying that
11 Mr. Smith was served as a party to these actions, and requesting alternative deposition
12 dates. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 8, Exh. MM.] Ms. Ridley further notified Mr. Harland that Ms.
13 Escamilla had evaded service of subpoena and asked counsel whether he would accept
14 service of the subpoena on Ms. Escamilla's behalf. [Id.] Mr. Harland did not respond
15 substantively to this letter until July 1, 2008. Mr. Harland eventually offered counsel the
16 following dates for Mr. Smith's deposition: July 14, 15, 16, 17—knowing that the Court
17 had set the deadline for filing depositive motions for July 18, 2008. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 14,
18 Exh. SS.]

19 The parties continued to meet and confer until July 9, 2008. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 15,
20 Exh. TT.] To date, however, the Hospitals have not been able to obtain alternative
21 deposition dates for the depositions of Mr. Smith or Ms. Escamilla – particularly dates
22 which would provide sufficient time to review the documents produced by SEIU, Local
23 715. Counsel for Local 715 has neither agreed to accept service on behalf of Ms.
24 Escamilla, nor has he offered any dates when she would be available to be deposed.

25 On June 16, 2008, Kristy Sermersheim was served with a subpoena to appear for
26 deposition on July 1, 2008. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 6, Exhs. FF-KK.] On June 27, 2008, counsel
27 for the Hospitals received a letter from Andrea Laiconi, an attorney from the firm
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representing Local 715, notifying counsel that Ms. Sermersheim was not available on July 1 for her deposition. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 10, Exh. OO.] In her letter, Ms. Laiacona further stated, “I do not believe that, given the causes of action in this matter, that Ms. Sermersheim has any relevant information for you and am not entirely certain that her deposition is necessary.” [Id.] On June 30, counsel for the Hospitals sent Ms. Laiacona a letter explaining that, given Ms. Sermersheim’s status as former executive secretary of Local 715 and her participation in various events relating to Local 715’s status, her deposition was necessary, and requesting alternative dates for her deposition. [Ridley Decl. ¶ 11, Exhs. PP.] To date, the Hospitals have received no response to this letter.

III. DISCUSSION

A. Legal Standard

Rule 26(b)(1) permits discovery in civil actions of “any matter, not privileged, that is relevant to the claim or defense of any party....” Fed.R.Civ.P. 26(b)(1). “Relevant evidence” is defined as “evidence having any tendency to make the existence of any fact that is of consequence to the determination of the action more probable or less probable than it would be without the evidence.” Fed. R. Evid. 401.

Furthermore, Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 30(b) requires:

(1) [a] party desiring to take the deposition of any person upon oral examination shall give reasonable notice in writing to every other party to the action. The notice shall state the time and place for taking the deposition and the name and address of each person to be examined, if known ... (2) the party taking the deposition shall state in the notice the method by which the testimony shall be recorded.

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B. Mr. Smith, Ms. Escamilla, and Ms. Sermersheim Should Be Compelled To Appear and Testify At Deposition Because The Information The Hospitals Seeks Is Highly Relevant To These Cases.

The heart of these cases is the status of the representation of the service employees of the Hospitals and, specifically, the existence and operational capacity of Local 715, the use of its resources and its representative capacity. Furthermore, each of the merits of these cases will also depend upon the state of the resources of Local 715, the involvement of the Weinberg firm and whether it represents Local 715 directly or through the rejected Servicing Agreement. Each of the witnesses who are the subject of this Motion have personal knowledge of relevant information which touches upon the central issues of these cases.

(1) Mr. Smith

The Hospitals have been informed that Rusty Smith is a party to this litigation as the purported Trustee for Local 715. As Trustee for Local 715, Mr. Smith will no doubt have information relating to the existence of Local 715, the representation and use of resources of Local 715. Furthermore, it is anticipated that Mr. Smith will know whether Local 715 retained counsel, when it retained counsel, and whether the Weinberg firm directly represents Local 715 or whether it represents Local 715 pursuant to a rejected Servicing Agreement. All of these issues are essential to determine whether Local 715's contentions have any merit.

When Mr. Smith was properly served with a deposition notice on June 13, 2008, he became obligated to appear and testify at his deposition. Fed. R. Civ. P. 30(b). No proper objections to Mr. Smith's deposition notice were ever made. As such, Mr. Smith should be compelled to appear for deposition in advance of the deadline for filing dispositive motions.¹

¹ Due to Local 715's failure to produce essential witnesses for depositions, the failure of Local 715 to provide complete responses to requests for production of documents, and the failure of two other SEIU locals, also represented by the Weinberg Firm, to respond

(2) Ms. Escamilla

Ms. Escamilla is a representative of UHW assigned to Stanford Hospital & Clinics and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital under the purported Servicing Agreement with Local 715 as well as the purported Trustee's Assistant. In her capacity, it is likely that Ms. Escamilla will be able to testify as to the status of Local 715, its representation, and the use of resources. In particular, Ms. Escamilla attended the arbitration of Victor Acosta, the subject of Case No. 5:08-CV-00213-JF, purporting to be a representative of Local 715. Thus, Ms. Escamilla will be able to provide highly relevant testimony as to the capacity in which she appeared at that arbitration which goes directly to the issue of the validity of the arbitrator's award in that case.

Although Ms. Escamilla has repeatedly evaded service for her deposition subpoena, the Weinberg firm objected to the subpoena on her behalf while at the same time refusing to accept service on her behalf. Ms. Escamilla should be compelled to appear for deposition.

(3) Ms. Sermersheim

Kristy Sermersheim is the former Executive Secretary of Local 715. As the former Executive Secretary of Local 715, the Hospitals anticipate that Ms. Sermersheim will have relevant information with regard to the current status of Local 715 and dealings between Local 715 and UHW, including the rejected Servicing Agreement up to the time of her departure from Local 715. Because Ms. Sermersheim has personal knowledge of relevant information to these cases, she should be compelled to appear.

C. The Court Should Order Sanctions For Local 715's Failure to Produce Witnesses

As officers or former officers of Local 715, Mr. Smith, Ms. Escamilla, and Ms.

to subpoenas calling for the production of documents, the Hospitals have been forced to file a motion to continue the dispositive motion deadline, which is now nearly one week away.

